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# California's Health



Vol. 14, No. 17 · Published twice monthly · March 1, 1957

## TARGET---SIX MILLION CALIFORNIANS WHO NEED POLIO PROTECTION THIS YEAR

On February 5th, Governor Goodwin J. Knight opened a new chapter in California's fight against poliomyelitis when he signed the legislative bill appropriating \$3,000,000 in state funds for the purchase and administration of Salk vaccine.

The state appropriation was made at the request of Governor Knight on recommendation of the State Department of Public Health and its Advisory Committee for the Prophylaxis of Poliomyelitis. Concerned over the "laggard's pace" at which Californians were being immunized against poliomyelitis, the department and its advisory committee last September adopted a statement of policy that special effort was warranted to secure immunization for the unprotected population before the next polio season. The Council of the California Medical Association joined in this statement and called for the cooperation of the medical profession, governmental and voluntary health agencies in developing and implementing a mutually acceptable plan for meeting this objective.

Obviously, the state program, which runs to June 30th, will not do the whole job that needs to be done. The state funds will provide two injections for approximately 2,000,000 persons, or about one-third of the population needing protection—the 6,000,000 under 40 who have not yet been vaccinated. The remaining two-thirds will be expected to obtain immunization from the commercial vaccine supply.

Planning for the state program has been carried out by the department and its advisory committee in cooperation with the California Medical Association, the California Confer-

Records show that 98 percent of California's poliomyelitis cases occur in persons under 40 years of age. (See charts.) There are 6,000,000 Californians under 40 who have not yet been vaccinated against polio. It is estimated if all Californians under 40 were protected with at least two injections of polio vaccine prior to the 1957 polio season, between one and two thousand cases of paralytic polio could be prevented this year. For these 6,000,000 Californians the time to be vaccinated against polio is now—not this summer or next year. "This job can't wait for '58."

ence of Local Health Officers and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The state vaccine is to be administered through local health departments, with the allocation based on the percentage of persons under 40 in each jurisdiction.

Several local health departments launched vaccination programs immediately following signature of the bill by Governor Knight. All health jurisdictions of the State have submitted plans for the administration of their state allocation and for a total community effort to motivate everyone under 40 to seek vaccination this spring.\* Most local programs will be in full swing before March 15th. The

\* The state vaccine program is designed to stimulate Californians to obtain at least two injections prior to the 1957 polio season. However, it should be emphasized that everyone should receive a full series of three injections for maximum protection against polio. The second injection should follow the first by about four

next issue of *California's Health* will describe the local plans.

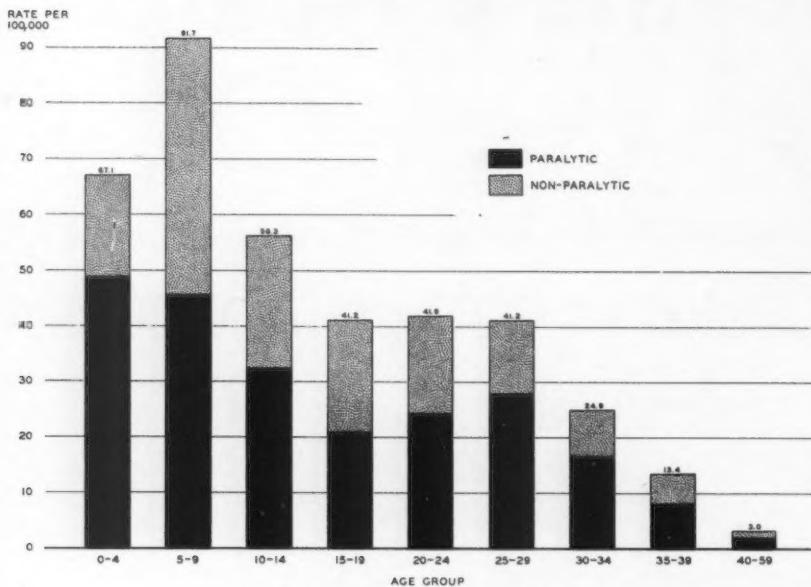
Urgency of a total community effort to reach the entire population under 40 is emphasized in the following facts which face health and medical authorities.

More than 70 percent of Californians under 40 years of age are unprotected by vaccination. There is increasing concern over unvaccinated preschool youngsters, teenagers and young adults. In the teenage group, 15-19, 80 percent have not been vaccinated. In the preschool group, 0-4 years, 55 percent have not been vaccinated. In the population aged 20-39, it is estimated that 95 percent have not been vaccinated. Adults in households with children are at particular risk. One-third of all paralytic polio in California occurs in the young adult group age 20 and over. Polio in this age group is generally more severe in its effects. To date in California only 2,000,000 persons have been vaccinated with at least two injections, most of them in the 0-19 age group. In all, only 32 percent of the population 0-39 have been immunized, leaving the 6,000,000 persons referred to above.

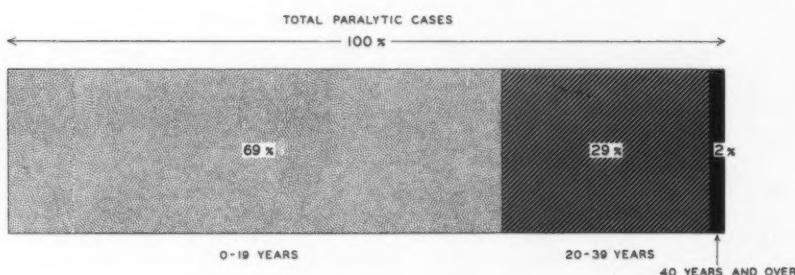
The large gaps in the vaccination of preschoolers and young adults can be explained in part by the fact that Salk vaccine during the first phase of the program in 1955 was restricted to first and second grade youngsters and pregnant women. It was then ex-

weeks and the third should be obtained about five to seven months following the second. For those just starting their series, time will not permit a third injection prior to July 1st when the state vaccination program ends, but it is vitally important that the third inoculations be obtained when due.

**POLIOMYELITIS IN CALIFORNIA**  
AGE SPECIFIC ATTACK RATES—FIVE-YEAR MEDIAN, 1950-1954



**POLIOMYELITIS IN CALIFORNIA**  
PERCENT OF TOTAL PARALYTIC CASES CONTRIBUTED BY EACH 20-YEAR AGE GROUP, 1950-1954



panded to the group 5-9, later to the group 0-14, and more recently to the group 0-19. Only since July, 1956, has commercial vaccine been opened for all ages.

The first polio vaccine to be given in California was administered during the 1954 field trials sponsored by the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis. Approximately 7,000 Alameda County youngsters were included in the trial, of which one-half received Salk vaccine and one-half served as controls.

Beginning in the spring of 1955, the national foundation made vaccine available to all first and second grade

school children. This program, completed in December, 1955, provided one or more inoculations to 392,541 children in California.

The United States Congress in the Vaccination Assistance Act of 1955 made appropriations (1955 and 1956) for the purchase and administration of vaccine. California's allotment from these federal appropriations was 3,500,000 doses of vaccine. From September to October, 1955, the vaccine was available for 5-9-year-olds, from mid-October, 1955, to July 19, 1956, the eligible age was 0 to 14, and from that date until the present the federal vaccine has been available to the age group 0-19.

The federal program has been sufficient to provide two inoculations for approximately one-third of the population under 20. Use by law was restricted to persons under age 20 and pregnant women. As of January 1, 1956, 1,013,916 persons had received one or more inoculations from the federal vaccine source, with a balance of 700,000 doses of vaccine not used. All of the balance had been requested for use by March 1, and would cover approximately 350,000 additional persons.

Polio vaccine for use in private medical practice has been generally available through regular commercial channels since September, 1955. Since July, 1956, it has been available without restriction for all ages. Manufacturer's sales records show that as of December 1, 1956, 3,037,585 doses had been sold in California.

As of December 1, 1956, crude estimates of the vaccinated population by age groups were made as follows:

Age group	Estimated population	Approximate Percent	
		vaccinated	vaccinated
Total	8,390,000	2,675,000	32 5,715,000
0-39	4,680,000	2,525,000	54 2,135,000
20-39	3,710,000	150,000	0.5 3,560,000

\* One or more inoculations.

Thus, as of December 1, 1956, there was a backlog of some 5,700,000 unvaccinated persons under age 40 in California.

#### Summary

Extensive data now show that the occurrence of paralytic polio has been reduced by 75-85 percent among those who have received two or more inoculations of the Salk vaccine. There is further evidence that cases which do occur after vaccination are generally less severe than among nonvaccinated persons.

In the 1956 polio season nearly 1,100 cases of paralytic polio were reported in California, of which only 85 were among persons who had received two or more inoculations of vaccine. Approximately one-third of the paralytic cases were in adults, age 20 and over.

Unless the backlog of unvaccinated persons under 40 can be protected prior to the 1957 polio season, 1,000 or more paralytic cases which could be prevented are likely to occur again if an average attack rate prevails among the nonvaccinated. If a high attack rate should occur in 1957, the

**FEDERAL PURCHASE POLIO VACCINE USAGE, TOTAL INOCULATIONS \***  
**REPORTED SEPTEMBER, 1955, THROUGH JANUARY, 1957**

Per 1,000 Estimated Population Aged 0-39 Years by County and Area, California †

Area by county	Total inoculations through Jan. 1957	Estimated population 0-39 years	Inoculations per 1,000 population 0-39	Area by county	Total inoculations through Jan. 1957	Estimated population 0-39 years	Inoculations per 1,000 population 0-39
Area I.....	35,193	117,290	300	Area V.....	59,657	163,040	360
Humboldt-Del Norte.....	19,617	74,510	263	Monterey.....	39,533	110,080	360
Lake.....	2,067	7,030	294	San Benito.....	2,601	9,660	270
Mendocino.....	13,509	35,750	377	Santa Cruz.....	17,523	43,300	405
Area II.....	40,834	145,685	280	Area VI.....	217,455	580,830	374
Butte.....	9,216	44,330	207	Fresno.....	83,032	207,360	400
Glenn.....	4,911	10,360	174	Kern.....	50,889	171,610	296
Lassen.....	3,166	10,870	291	Kings.....	17,522	29,360	597
Modoc.....	3,490	6,205	562	Madera.....	14,506	24,240	598
Plumas.....	1,890	7,540	251	Mariposa.....	1,586	2,620	605
Shasta.....	8,108	28,780	285	Merced.....	20,870	53,470	390
Siskiyou.....	6,032	20,530	294	Tulare.....	29,050	92,170	315
Tehama.....	2,188	12,920	170	Area VII.....	77,089	207,940	370
Trinity.....	1,743	4,150	420	San Luis Obispo.....	17,894	38,570	564
Area III.....	586,996	2,066,865	280	Santa Barbara.....	25,470	71,570	355
Alameda.....	128,064	558,505	230	Ventura.....	33,725	97,800	345
Contra Costa.....	43,639	224,120	195	Area VIII.....	67,698	412,220	164
Marin.....	26,702	77,460	345	Inyo.....	3,086	7,870	392
Napa.....	9,851	36,840	267	Mono.....	711	1,340	530
San Francisco.....	82,858	509,890	162	Riverside.....	16,034	45,250	110
San Mateo.....	113,009	320,250	491	San Bernardino.....	47,807	257,760	185
Santa Clara.....	154,766	298,110	519	Area IX.....	870,206	3,715,250	234
Solano.....	12,810	77,580	165	Los Angeles.....	831,208	3,449,300	241
Sonoma.....	15,207	84,110	181	Orange.....	38,998	265,950	146
Area IV.....	203,142	654,890	310	STATE TOTAL.....	124,166	604,550	205
Alpine.....	95	190	502	Imperial.....	15,158	44,070	344
Amador.....	2,178	5,690	383	San Diego.....	109,008	560,480	194
Calaveras.....	1,931	6,080	317	STATE TOTAL.....	2,282,436	8,698,560	262
Colusa.....	2,480	7,100	346				
El Dorado.....	4,925	10,940	450				
Nevada.....	2,156	11,640	183				
Placer.....	2,994	30,190	217				
Sacramento.....	51,026	257,930	198				
San Joaquin.....	74,931	149,000	502				
Sierra.....	324	1,470	220				
Stanislaus.....	23,482	92,100	255				
Sutter-Yuba.....	13,091	38,890	337				
Tuolumne.....	3,842	9,790	392				
Yolo.....	19,087	33,710	584				

\* Divide figures by at least two to arrive at number of persons receiving two or more inoculations.

† This table does not include vaccine administered in the N.F.I.P. and commercial programs.

number of paralytic cases might exceed 2,000.

**FAMILY POLIO VACCINATION IN CALIFORNIA IN MID-1956 \***

In mid-1956 the California State Department of Public Health conducted a state-wide household sample survey in part for the purpose of collecting information on the poliomyelitis vaccination history of each household member and the attitude of the mother toward poliomyelitis vaccine. In an analysis of this information, these data are related to the social and economic characteristics of each household.

The sample included some 3,500 households, containing about 11,000 individuals, or about one household

\* Also published in *California Medicine*, February, 1957.

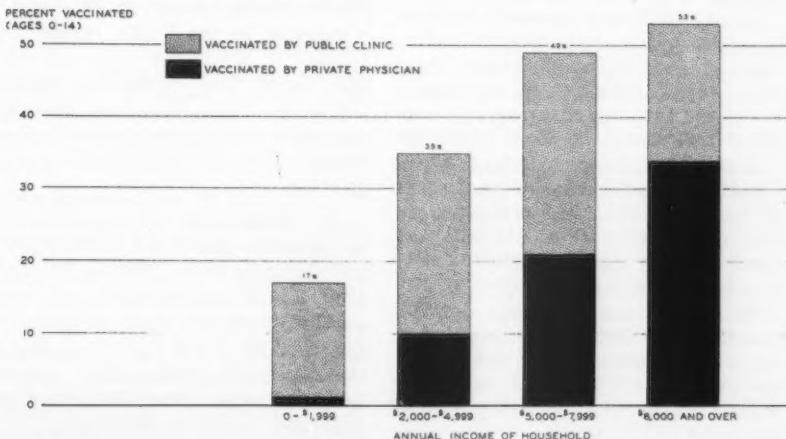
out of every 1,200 in the State. Although information on poliomyelitis vaccine was collected from the entire sample, the tabulations reported by the department in an unpublished manuscript † are restricted to persons 0-14 years of age, a group to which the vaccine had been available from either private physicians or public clinics for about eight months before the survey. The sample contained 3,342 children under 15 years of age.

Preliminary analysis of the survey data taken in mid-1956 reveals that:

1. Forty-two percent of the 3,342 children under 15 had received their first poliomyelitis vaccination; 58 percent had not been vaccinated against poliomyelitis.
2. Poliomyelitis vaccine was favorably regarded by 81 percent of the mothers of children under 15. For mothers of children that had been vaccinated, 97 percent were favorable, 2 percent neutral and 1 percent unfavorable. For mothers of children that had not been vaccinated, 65 percent were favorable, 11 percent were neutral and 22 percent were unfavorable.
3. The most frequent reason for non-vaccination given by mothers favorable toward the vaccine was that the shots were not offered their children in school, or their doctors did not tell them the vac-

† Being submitted to Public Health Reports for publication.

**POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATIONS IN CALIFORNIA**  
**PERCENT OF CHILDREN VACCINATED, AGES 0-14, BY ANNUAL INCOME OF HOUSEHOLD AND SOURCE OF FIRST VACCINATION, JUNE, 1956**



- cine was available. The second most frequent reason was that of a simple lack of motivation; the mother just had not gotten around to it or had not thought about it.
4. Children who were vaccinated tended to come from white families in the higher income brackets, having 2-4 children. They also tended to have mothers with 12 or more years of education and/or fathers in white collar occupations. In families earnings less than \$2,000, 83 percent of the children under 15 had not been vaccinated, as compared with 47 percent who had not been vaccinated in families earning more than \$8,000.
  5. Private physicians vaccinated 1 percent of the children from families having less than \$2,000 annual income, but 34 percent of the children from families having incomes of \$8,000 or greater.
  6. Comparatively few children from households having more than three children in the 0-14 age group were vaccinated in physicians' offices.

The State Department of Public Health emphasizes that there is still a high percentage of nonvaccination among some of the age groups most susceptible to poliomyelitis, and concludes that persons in these age groups who will be most resistant to obtaining immunization will probably be socio-economically similar to the nonvaccinated population found in the survey.

### Morgan Hill-Placerville Fluoridate

Morgan Hill and Placerville became the eighteenth and nineteenth California communities to fluoridate their water supply, bringing the total number of Californians enjoying the benefits of fluoridation to about 1,050,000.

Morgan Hill, located in Santa Clara County, began fluoridating on the first of February, 1957. The ordinance directing the city to fluoridate passed at the November 6, 1956, general election by a margin of almost two to one.

Placerville, a community of 3,700 people, began fluoridating their water supply in October of last year, after the city council passed a resolution calling for the addition of fluorides to the city's water supply.

### Dr. Volonte Appointed To State Board

Governor Goodwin J. Knight has appointed Henry J. Volonte, D.D.S., of Hillsborough, and has reappointed Mrs. Mildred W. Bevil of Sacramento and Errol R. King, D.O., of Riverside, to the State Board of Public Health, for terms ending January 15, 1961.

Dr. Volonte succeeds Dr. Sanford Moose of San Francisco whose term expired January 15, 1957. A dentist with offices in San Mateo, Dr. Volonte was graduated from the University of California in 1930. He is a Past President of the San Mateo County Dental Society and has served on the Board of Directors of the California State Dental Association. He has been a member for many years of the San Mateo County Health and Welfare Board; was a member of the Board of Directors of the San Mateo Mosquito Abatement District; and a member of the freeholders board to rewrite the San Mateo county charter. He served three years in the African Theater as a naval dental officer during World War II. He is married and has two children.

#### **Mrs. Bevil and Dr. King Reappointed**

Mrs. Bevil, the wife of Dr. Paul P. D. Bevil of Sacramento, is a Past President of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers, and is presently Safety Chairman of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. She is Vice Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Children and Youth and served as Vice Chairman of the Governor's Conference on Education in 1955 and as a delegate to the White House Conference on Education later that year. Mrs. Bevil was chosen Sacramento "Woman of the Year" in 1955. She originally was appointed to the State Board of Public Health on January 22, 1954.

Dr. King, originally appointed to the board on March 23, 1945, received his education at the Throop Polytechnic Institute and the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons in Los Angeles. He is Past President of the California Osteopathic Association and Past Commander of the American Legion in Riverside.

### PUC Order Fluoridation At Oroville

The State Public Utilities Commission on January 29, 1957, ordered the California Water Service Company to fluoridate the drinking water supplied to customers in Oroville.

The commission's decision, awaited for more than a year, is the first ever issued by a state regulatory agency directing a privately-owned water company to fluoridate the water it sells.

The decision, based on testimony given in four days of special hearings in Oroville in October, 1955, stated: " \* \* \* based upon facts revealed by the record, it is appropriate for us to direct the company to fluoridate its water supply. Fluoridation will promote the health of customers and will not cause injury to the consumers."

The commission's action concludes more than two years of controversy over fluoridation of Oroville's water supply.

The Oroville City Council, after public hearings, asked the California Water Service Company to proceed with fluoridation. The company declined.

The Butte County Supervisors likewise requested fluoridation, but the company still refused, maintaining that an election or some other method of sampling public opinion was necessary first. An election was not feasible since the company's services extended into several political jurisdictions.

The city and the county subsequently joined in asking the PUC to order fluoridation and a similar request was filed by 22 business and professional clubs, Parents and Teachers Associations, labor unions and other civic groups.

### Oakland Diabetic Fair Third, Not First

In the January 15, 1957 issue of *California's Health*, the lead article "A Diabetes Fair—Tried and Found Successful" began, "The first diabetes fair in the western United States was held in Oakland \* \* \*." Since publication of the article we have learned that the Los Angeles Diabetic Association sponsored two successful diabetic fairs in November of 1955 and 1956.

## Recent Film Additions

The following films have been added recently to the film library of the Bureau of Health Education, State Department of Public Health:

**ALCOHOLISM: THE REVOLVING DOOR** Kiné-scope film 30 min. 1956

Demonstrates early treatment of acute alcoholism with both psychotherapy and new drug therapy. A dramatic illustration of conditions on Skid Row, and the steps leading to alcoholism. Covers meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Discussion of alcoholism as an illness, which needs sympathetic understanding and treatment. Suitable for adult groups, professional and lay groups, and college students. A Smith, Kline, and French March of Medicine TV presentation.

**COLLECTING SPECIMENS FOR VIRUS DIAGNOSIS** Film strip and record Color, sound, 58 frames 1956

The importance of proper collection, preservation and packing of specimens sent to the laboratory for virus diagnosis. Shows the type of specimens of value for virus diagnosis and emphasizes the importance of timely collection. Procedures for rapid preservation are demonstrated. Types of shipping containers are suggested, together with precautions in packing to insure against damage in transit. Finally, the importance of sending complete data with the specimen is stressed. For professional education, physicians and technicians. Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga.

**COMMON HEART DISORDERS AND THEIR CAUSES** 17 min. 1956

This film describes the functions of a healthy and a disordered heart. Animation demonstrates the internal workings of the heart and how it is affected by diseases of the circulatory system. Shows the different kinds of damage caused by rheumatic fever, high blood pressure, or hardening of the arteries. Stresses the fact that people with heart disease are able to live long lives without seriously limiting their activities. Suitable for showing to high school, college, and adult groups. McGraw-Hill Text Film.

**HEALTH CAREERS** 13½ min. 1956

This film is designed to be used with the recently published **HEALTH CAREERS GUIDEBOOK** and **PARTNERS FOR HEALTH**, of the National Health Council (1955). Gives a general view of the health career field, without spelling out the details of how to prepare for entering any particular field. The film can provide stimulus for discussion of specific fields, with the guidebook used as a source of further information on questions raised. For high school and junior college, and other youth groups. Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U. S., with the National Health Council.

**WATER SUPPLY** Color 11 min. 1956

Shows how different means are used to obtain water supplies: surface waters, lakes, rivers, and aqueducts; water soften-

## Western Branch to Meet in Long Beach

On May 29 to June 1, 1957, the City of Long Beach will be playing host to the 24th annual meeting of the Western Branch, American Public Health Association. The meeting will be held at the Lafayette Hotel in Long Beach, and special sessions will be held covering epidemiology, public health education, sanitation, laboratory, nutrition and industrial hygiene.

More detailed program information will be made available in the May 1st issue of *California's Health*.

## Special Appointments Made by CAP

The Committee on Administrative Practices of the California Conference of Local Health Officers at its last meeting made the following special appointments: Dr. Robert S. Westphal, of Stanislaus County, to represent the conference on the statewide Bangs Disease Committee; Dr. Emil Palmquist, of Berkeley, to represent the conference on the advisory committee to the State Department of Education on Public School Health. Dr. Roy O. Gilbert, of Los Angeles County, was confirmed as conference representative for 1957 on the State Coordinating Committee on Nursing Education.

The CAP agreed to discontinue the following ad hoc committees: on legislative policy; on subdivisions; and to study county jail health services.

In other action the CAP continued the Ad Hoc Committee on Field Crop Sanitation and confirmed for 1957 the Ad Hoc Committee on Indigent Medical Care.

ing and purification, testing and research laboratories are shown. Colorado River aqueduct scenes are included. A good summary of main points of film at conclusion. For sixth to 12th grade level. Academy Films.

**WITHIN MAN'S POWER** 29 min. 1954

Shows advances in tuberculosis control during the past 75 years. Contrasts the legitimate confidence of a TB patient today with the despair of his attitude then. An historical review of Koch, Trudeau and Flick and their roles in persuading the public and doctors that TB is contagious, not hereditary. Shows how modern medical science makes hope for life and rehabilitation more certain. For secondary school, college groups, and adults. National T. B. Association.

## Attorney General OK's Transfer Of Interest in TB Sanatorium

The Attorney General in an opinion handed down December 2, 1956, opened the way for counties jointly operating a sanatorium to terminate their agreement and for one of the counties to transfer its interest to the others. The transfer of interest may be accomplished by agreement of the majority of each board of supervisors and without complying with the statutory requirements for sale of county property.

The opinion was rendered at the request of Stanislaus County; the tuberculosis sanatorium in question is the Ahwahnee Sanitorium located in the City of Ahwahnee, Madera County. Merced and Madera Counties will continue to operate the sanatorium.

In summarizing his opinion the Attorney General stated, "Government Code Sections 25520 *et seq.* do not apply to the transaction in question. The three counties concerned may terminate their agreement for joint operation of the sanatorium by agreement of a majority of each of the boards of supervisors, and the sanatorium may be transferred to the Counties of Madera and Merced as an incident of such agreement."

## History of Children's Bureau

"Four Decades of Action for Children," a short history of the Children's Bureau, relates a steady expansion of national activities for children and reflects major changes in child life in this century.

The Children's Bureau, first agency primarily devoted to children established by any national government in the world, was created by Congress in 1912.

Beginning as a unit in the Department of Commerce and Labor, the bureau was subsequently transferred to the newly created Department of Labor in 1913, to the Federal Security Agency in 1946, and became a part of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare when it was established in 1953.

Copies are available from the U. S. Government Printing Office for 35 cents.

## NEW CHIEF OF BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING



Miss Edna J. Brandt, new Chief of the Bureau of Public Health Nursing, comes to the California State Department of Public Health from Washington where she was Assistant Nursing Chief in the State Health Department. She has been associated previously with the Tuberculosis Nursing Service of the United States Public Health Service and served with UNRRA and the Office of Inter-American Affairs. She succeeds Miss Rena Haig who retired on February 1st.

## Joint NEA-AMA Committee Endorses Fluoridation

A resolution urging public acceptance of fluoridation of public water supplies has been passed by the Joint Committee on Health Problems in Education of the National Education Association and the American Medical Association. The committee also recommends that the public be informed through in-school and extra-school education programs of the value and safety of fluoridation.

The resolution follows: "Be it resolved, That the Joint Committee on Problems in Health Education of the National Education Association and the American Medical Association

1. Recognizes the value of fluoridation of public water supplies as a means of preventing dental caries through the application of public health principles.

2. Recommends the informing of the public by in-school and extra-school educational programs of the

## Summary of Typhoid Fever Cases, Carriers—1956

During 1956, 102 new cases of typhoid fever were reported to the California State Department of Public Health as compared to 99 in 1955. The State Typhoid Carrier Registry recorded 28 new typhoid carriers this year, 22 of which were newly discovered carriers, while 27 were deleted from the registry.

The sources of the 102 new cases of typhoid are as follows: carriers were responsible for 22 of the cases, six were secondary to other cases, seven were possibly water- or sewage-borne, and 33 were contracted outside of California. In addition, there were 34 cases in which the source of the infection could not be determined.

For the past four years the number of known carriers in the State has remained fairly constant with the number of newly discovered carriers about equally the number of deaths, releases and transfers out of the State.

According to the State Typhoid Carrier Registry, there were 323 typhoid carriers as of December 31, 1956. The registry listed 321 in 1955, 325 in 1954, and 314 in 1953.

## Mental Health Forum March 20th to 22d

"Better Mental Health—Challenge to All Health Services" is the theme of the 1957 National Health Forum to be held March 20-22 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The 1957 Forum in Cincinnati is the first step in a plan to rotate the forums through different regions of the United States.

The forum is one in an annual series conducted by the National Health Council in behalf of its 51 national organization members, to consider some health problem of nationwide concern requiring concerted thinking and action.

value and safety of fluoridation as a caries-prevention measure, and

3. Encourages the public acceptance of fluoridation of public water supplies to reduce the pain, expense, and disfigurement from an excess of carious, filled, and missing teeth."

## Chronic Disease Is Major Factor In State's Rehabilitation Cases

Chronic diseases represent the largest category of disabilities found in the case load of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education, as revealed in a recent study. One-third of the cases served are disabled by one of the several chronic diseases, including tuberculosis, arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and others.

The most prevalent single disability is tuberculosis, accounting for 16.4 percent of the cases. Other disabling diseases were heart disease, almost 9 percent; arthritis, 3 percent; and diabetes, 1 percent.

Disease is an even more important factor in California's vocational rehabilitation program when the origin of the disability is determined. Diseases cause 65 percent of the disabilities, while 12 percent were the result of a congenital condition. Employment accidents were responsible for 10 percent of the physical handicaps and other causes—home, traffic and other causes, accounted for 11 percent of the cases.

## Federal Court Again Rules Cancer Medicines Worthless

For the second time, a federal court has determined that the Hoxsey medicines for internal cancer are worthless. A release from the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Food and Drug Administration, stated that after a six-week trial in the federal court at Pittsburgh, the jury returned a verdict that these medicines, in pill form, were illegally offered as an effective treatment for cancer.

Over the years thousands of persons have been deceived by the false claims for the Hoxsey liquid medicines and pills. At the Pittsburgh trial there was testimony concerning persons who may have died of cancer as a result of reliance on the Hoxsey treatment instead of seeking competent medical treatment in the early stages of their condition.

The Government's evidence showed that alleged "cured cases" presented by defense attorneys were people who did not have cancer, or who were adequately treated before they went to the Portage clinic.

**SPECIAL CENSUS RELEASES \***

Income of Persons in the United States: 1955. *Current Population Reports, Consumer Income*, November, 1956, Series P-60 (23).

The Monthly Report on the Labor Force: November, 1956. *Current Population Reports, Labor Force*, December, 1956, Series P-57 (173).

School Enrollment Increase Averages 1.6 Million a Year Since 1953. *Current Population Reports, Population Characteristics*, December 6, 1956, Series P-20 (70).

Civilian Population of the United States, by Type of Residence, March, 1956, and April, 1950. *Current Population Reports, Population Characteristics*, December 7, 1956, Series P-20 (71).

Provisional Estimates of the Population of the United States, January 1, 1950, to November 1, 1956. *Current Population Reports, Population Estimates*, December 12, 1956, Series P-25 (149).

Marital Status and Family Status: March, 1956. *Current Population Reports, Population Characteristics*, December 21, 1956, Series P-20 (72).

Copies of these releases may be obtained from: Library, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, United States Department of Commerce at 419 Customs Building, 555 Battery Street, San Francisco, or at Room 450, 1031 South Broadway, Los Angeles.

\* In ordering, specify series and number as shown in parentheses. These numbers are not population figures.

## Center for Aging Research Established by PHS

The U. S. Public Health Service has announced the establishment of a Center for Aging Research in the National Institutes of Health. Primary objective of the center is to encourage and support additional research on aging processes. Assistance will be given to universities and other research institutions in establishing a broad research program that will "bring the full range of biological, psychological and social sciences to bear on the aging problem."

Dr. G. Halsey Hunt, Associate Chief of the Public Health Service's Bureau of Medical Services, will direct the new program. The program will be implemented by establishment of regional research centers operated by universities. The university research centers will be supported in part by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

The center will provide a continuous inventory and analysis of aging research in progress throughout the Country, and a channel of communication between research workers in this field.

## Health Officer Changes

### Madera County

Jeanne Blumhagen, M.D., has been appointed Health Officer of Madera County, effective February 1, 1957, to succeed Rex Blumhagen, M.D.

### Tehama County

O. T. Wood, M.D., has been appointed Health Officer for Tehama County to succeed Lynn E. Wolfe, Jr., M.D. The appointment was effective January 7, 1957.

### City of Dunsmuir

E. V. Anderson, M.D., was appointed Health Officer for the City of Dunsmuir, Siskiyou County, as of January 1, 1957. He succeeds Mr. Lealland A. Clark.

### City of San Joaquin

The City of San Joaquin is now served by the Fresno County Health Department. Dr. Robert D. Monlux is Health Officer for Fresno County.

Sister Mary Philippa, Administrator, St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco.

Continuing members of the five-man board are: G. Otis Whitecotton, M.D., of Oakland and Mr. George B. Nelson of Glendale.

## New Publication

"The Child Who Is Mentally Retarded," a new publication of the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, gives some practical suggestions to parents of children who are mentally retarded.

The pamphlet emphasizes the value of a thorough diagnostic evaluation of a child who appears to be mentally retarded to determine how much he can be expected to develop and how parents can start to plan for the child. It also outlines some of the factors which parents would want to consider in deciding either to keep the child at home or to place him away from home.

The pamphlet is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents a copy.

## Public Health Positions

### Kings County

*Public Health Bacteriologist:* Salary open. Must possess a California Certificate for Public Health Bacteriologist. For further information write to Director, Kings County Department of Public Health, 1221 Lacey Boulevard, Hanford.

### Pasadena City

*Sanitarian:* Salary range, \$399 to \$486. Beginning salary depends on training and experience. Requires possession of a California State Certificate as a Registered Sanitarian. Member state retirement system. Apply Personnel Department, City Hall, Pasadena.

### Placer County

*Registered Sanitarian:* Salary, \$341 (higher wage pending). Mileage and expenses. Diversified work both urban and rural. Write: Ruth M. Moldenhauer, M.D., Director of Public Health, 360 Elm Street, Auburn.

### San Mateo County

*Clinical Laboratory Technician:* Salary range \$314 to \$392. Closing date for filing, March 11, 1957. Candidates must possess Clinical Laboratory Technician's License issued by the California State Department of Public Information. For further information and application forms write to Civil Service Commission, County of San Mateo, Redwood City.

Twelve percent of patients with poliomyelitis shed this virus in their stools for as long as eight weeks.—*This Week in Public Health, Mass. Newsletter Vol. 5, No. 48, November 26, 1956, issue.*

## Hospital Advisory Board Appointments

Three new members have been appointed to four-year terms on the Hospital Advisory Board. They are:

Mr. Louis Peelyon, Administrator of the Grossmont District Hospital, La Mesa; Lawrence B. O'Meara, D.O., Medical Director, Osteopathic Unit, Los Angeles General Hospital; and

### Comparative Data for Cases of Selected Notifiable Diseases California, Month of January—1957

Diseases	Cases reported this month			Cumulative cases from January 1		
	1957	1956	1955	1957	1956	1955
Anthrax	--	--	--	--	--	--
Botulism	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brucellosis	--	3	3	--	3	3
Coccidioidomycosis <sup>1</sup>	19	13	2	19	13	2
Diarrhea of newborn	8	--	2	8	--	2
Diphtheria	3	10	8	3	10	8
Encephalitis, acute <sup>2</sup>	26	32	19	26	32	19
Gonococcal infections	1,601	1,186	1,128	1,601	1,186	1,128
Hepatitis, infectious	208	185	152	208	185	152
Hepatitis, serum	9	5	3	9	5	3
Leprosy	3	--	1	3	--	1
Leptospirosis	--	--	--	--	--	--
Malaria	2	1	2	2	1	2
Measles	5,323	1,827	2,248	5,323	1,827	2,248
Meningococcal infections	20	33	39	20	33	39
Mumps	2,158	4,074	2,559	2,158	4,074	2,559
Pertussis (whooping cough)	143	156	488	143	156	488
Poliomyelitis—total	51	139	90	51	139	90
Psittacosis	--	3	6	--	3	6
Q fever <sup>3</sup>	--	2	NR	--	2	NR
Relapsing fever	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rabies, animal	4	27	2	4	27	2
Rocky Mountain spotted fever	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salmonellosis	61	56	46	61	56	46
Shigellosis	72	89	112	72	89	112
Streptococcal infections (including scarlet fever)	1,072	439	840	1,072	439	840
Syphilis	529	340	538	529	340	538
Tetanus	3	2	2	3	2	2
Trachoma	--	2	--	--	2	--
Trichinosis	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tuberculosis	514	468	590	514	468	590
Tularemia	--	1	1	--	1	1
Typhoid fever	7	10	6	7	10	6
Typhus fever, endemic	1	--	1	1	--	1

<sup>1</sup> Since July 1, 1955—Active primary (including cavitary) and disseminated coccidioidomycosis reportable.

<sup>2</sup> Encephalitis, acute, includes arthropod-borne infections, post infectious cases, and those with etiology undetermined.

<sup>3</sup> NR—Not reportable prior to July 1, 1955.

Mental hospitals have only about 56 percent of the beds needed to give patients good care.—*Better Health, Vol. 15, No. 5, November, December, 1956.*

Over 30,000 people enter California each month according to the latest Chamber of Commerce figures.—*Mirror, Vol. 2, No. 5, November, December, 1956.*

### Anti-fluoridation Claim Debunked

The fear that fluoridation can cause arthritis is dispelled by a two-year study at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Dr. Charles Leroy Steinberg of Rochester told the American Rheumatism Association. Bones and joints of arthritis patients who had drunk fluoridated water for years, he said, were found to contain normal or less than normal amounts of fluoride.

*Today's Health, February, 1957.*

All warm-blooded animals are susceptible to rabies.

GOODWIN J. KNIGHT, Governor  
MALCOLM H. MERRILL, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Director of Public Health

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Entered as second-class matter Jan. 25, 1949,  
at the Post Office at Berkeley, California,  
under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912. Acceptance  
for mailing at the special rate approved for  
in Section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917.

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